



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

PROGRAM E-SPOTLIGHT

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UKRAINE

USAID Visits Dnipropetrovsk

USAID representatives from the Office of Democracy and Governance visited Dnipropetrovsk on January 18-19 to view first hand how local projects were developing in the pre-election season. The USAID team met with Dnipropetrovsk Mayor Ivan Kulichenko, who provided an update on municipal preparations for parliamentary and local elections.



Kathryn Stevens, ODG director, speaks at press conference

The group also visited the opening of an election commissioner training session for local political party nominees, which USAID supports through its Strengthening Electoral Administration in Ukraine Program. USAID Office of Democracy and Governance Director Kathryn Stevens welcomed the trainees and explained to them the importance of their work in assuring free and fair elections. Afterwards, Ms. Stevens and Ellen Seats, a USAID elections specialist, took part in a Center for Ukraine Education Reform Press Club on preparations for the upcoming elections meeting, which was well-attended by the local press. Later that day, the USAID team met with representatives of two leading political parties in

the region. The day began with a visit to the Dnipropetrovsk Women's Information and Coordination Center, which USAID supports through the Ukrainian Citizen's Action Network.

Avian Influenza Team Visited Ukraine

A United States interagency Avian Influenza (AI) team visited Ukraine on January 27-28 as part of a trip through the Eurasia region to assess the Avian Influenza situation in the aftermath of several bird flu episodes. The group was here to assist response efforts by the Government of Ukraine and to look at organizing an international assessment group for further evaluation of the AI situation in Ukraine. Earlier the team had been in Armenia, Georgia, Turkey, and Azerbaijan.

Team members included Anne Derse of the State Department; Dr. Ray Arthur of Health and Human Services; Dr. Bruce Thomsen of USDA and Dr. Dennis Carroll of USAID. The group met with other international donor groups involved with the AI problem, and with representatives of various ministries of the government of Ukraine.

Improving Family Planning & Reproductive Health Project Launched

On January 20, 2006, USAID/Ukraine launched the *Improving Family Planning & Reproductive Health Project*, a five-year \$9.75 million cooperative agreement. The new project is designed to address important reproductive health issues: the continuing high rates of abortion, unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. JSI Research & Training Institute is the implementing partner, in cooperation with the Academy for Educational Development and Harvard University School of Public Health.

This new project aims to give the Ukrainian people better access to family planning and

reproductive health services. Focusing on rural areas, where services are less accessible, will be an important part of the strategy.

The project plans to build on an emerging network of family doctors, making reproductive health part of the nation's vision of more holistic primary health care.

National Dissemination Conference to Highlight Internationally Accepted Perinatal Technologies

On January 30, 2006, USAID/Ukraine Mother and Infant Health Project held a national dissemination conference to share project accomplishments in modern perinatal technologies. Earl Gast, USAID/Ukraine Mission director, who was joined by Raisa Moiseenko, Ministry of Health official and Alexander Gorodetsky, president of TNK-BP, a private oil company, welcomed the conference participants.

"The current successes of the Mother and Infant Health Project are outstanding," Mr. Gast explained. He added that "the project is beginning an exciting new chapter."

The Mother and Infant Health Project is implemented in eight oblasts and reached great progress to date. At the participating project sites, the project has already accounted for a 30% reduction in infant mortality, virtually eliminated hypothermia among newborns, and reduced child abandonment. In addition, while maternal mortality has been increasing in Ukraine, not a single maternal death has taken place in all 16 maternities supported by the project. Moreover, over 15 health care authorities across the country have requested to participate in the project, and the Government of Ukraine issued a decree that successful MIHP practices be rolled-out nationally.

USAID/Ukraine recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation with TNK-BP on mutual cooperation on the improvement of mother and infant health in Ukraine, the first multi-million dollar public-private partnership between USAID/Ukraine and a private company. USAID is pursuing similar business models in other projects

to leverage limited resources and gain the most impact for Ukraine.



Earl Gast speaks with Alexander Gorodetsky prior to Dissemination Conference

Kyiv Mission Launches Newsletter

The first issue of USAID Insight, a new newsletter published by the USAID Mission in Kyiv, appeared on January 18, dedicated to Ukraine's movement towards the World Trade Organization. USAID Insight is targeted at a Ukrainian audience and will be produced in both Ukrainian and English. The Mission's Development Outreach and Communications Office plans to produce 1,500 copies of the newsletter on a monthly basis and distribute them nationwide through U.S. Embassy Public Affairs LEAP Centers and the "Windows on America" Centers. Each issue will be dedicated to a topic that relates to a USAID program. The February issue will deal with efforts at civil society development in Ukraine.

Upcoming Events

February 14, Legal Reform & Rule of Law Program, Parliamentary & Local Election Law Trainings

February 15, Ukraine Reform Education Program, Press Club meeting on "Elections Race: Who is winning and who is falling behind?"

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